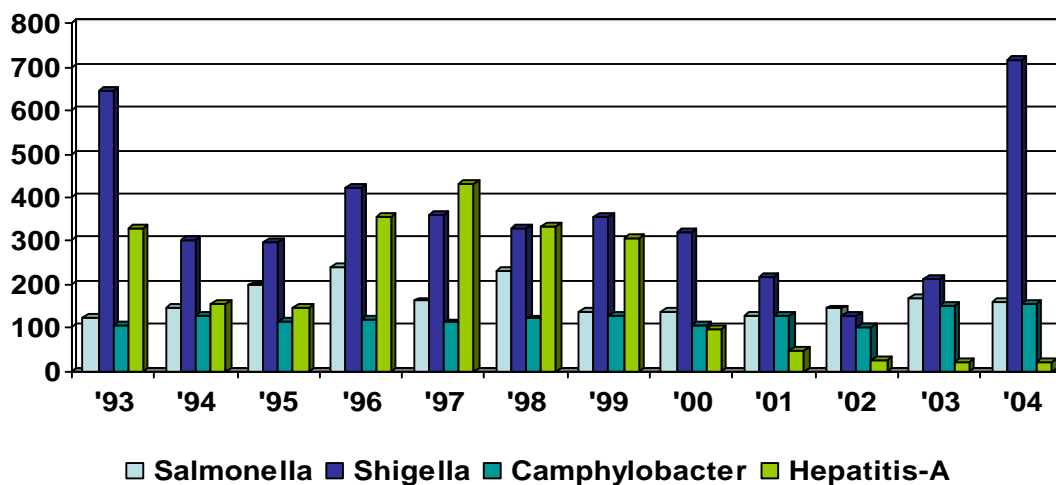
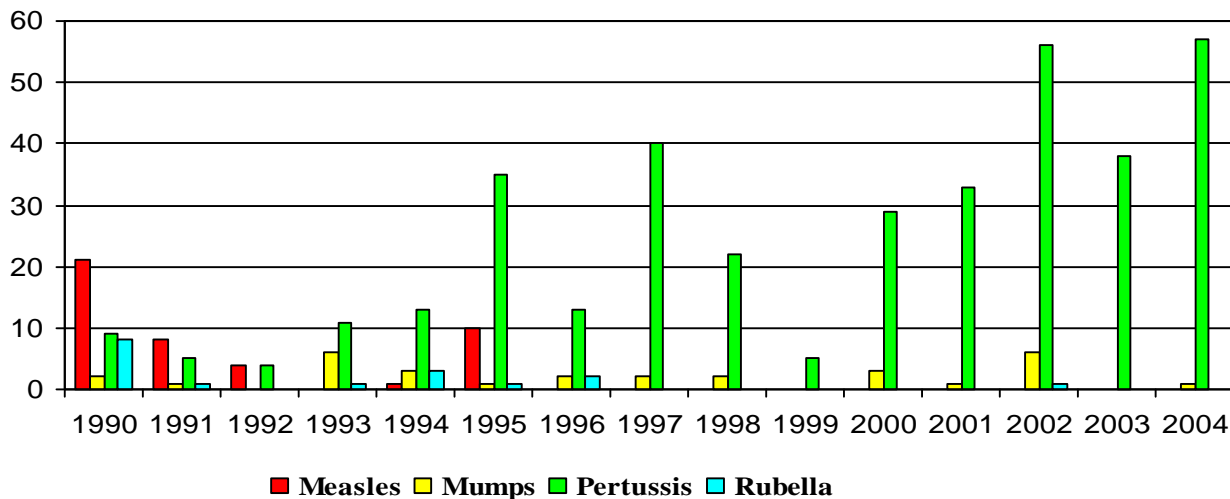


Selected Preventable Diseases



A total of 718 cases of shigella were reported in Bexar County in 2004, an increase of 500 cases from 2003. The last time we had such an increase was in 1993 with over 600 cases reported. The shigella bacterium can cause disease with as few as 10 organisms. Symptoms usually appear 12 to 50 hours after infection. Symptoms can include diarrhea, abdominal cramps, fever nausea, and vomiting. Prevention of shigellosis is through sanitary practices such as through hand washing after bathroom use and after diapering. The majority of cases (80%) occurred under the age of 10, and of these cases 54% were ages 2-6. This demonstrates the fact that children of that age group usually lack the concept for hygiene i.e. hand washing, and are more likely to spread disease. Important to this disease is the number of cases that occur in daycare centers where children of this age are grouped in classroom settings and intermingle. It is not unusual to find this disease starting in young diapered children in this setting and spreading to older playmates or siblings. This increase was not unique to Bexar County other counties of Texas has similar problems. The Selected Enteric Disease graph, shows that the cases of Salmonella and Campylobacter have remained relatively constant over the past 10-11 years and have not fluctuated as much as Shigella and Hepatitis-A have.

On a very positive note, the impact of the Hepatitis-A vaccine is very noticeable on this graph. While the vaccine was approved and licensed in 1995, voluntary vaccination was offered to selected high-risk population the following year. By 1999-2000 the vaccination of children in high-risk areas of town began to show countywide decrease HAV vaccine became a requirement for school entry in Bexar County in August 2003. Since then 95% of our hepatitis-A cases have been in adults, averaging about 10-20 cases per year, a tremendous decline from previous years of 150-350 cases per year; truly a public health success story.

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